

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22 REMAINS FAITHFUL TO CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, Congressional District 22 in Texas remains faithful to conservative principles.

I am Dr. SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS, and I am the newly elected Member of Congress from Congressional District 22. The people in my district are hard-working individuals who believe in conservative principles, such as the sanctity of life; traditional marriage between one man and one woman; the right to bear arms; smaller, more efficient government; making tax cuts permanent; winning the war on terror; and opposing a cut-and-run strategy; and stopping illegal immigration while streamlining legal immigration.

The families in Congressional District 22 of Texas want better transportation options, a solid energy policy with energy independence, affordable health insurance, and lower health care costs through the free market. They want affordable, quality education for their children from pre-K to college that is under local control, and strong homeland security to prevent terrorist attacks on our home soil.

One of my district's primary ways in which to prevent a terrorist attack is to be a hard target. The Houston area has all major assets that are attractive to terrorists to attack, as identified by the FBI, including petrochemical facilities that produce 50 percent of the petrochemicals in our Nation and 25 percent of our country's gasoline. The Port of Houston is close to our area and in the city. It is close to our district and in the city, and it is the largest foreign tonnage port in the Nation.

We have NASA's Johnson Space Center there, which is the home of manned space flight. We rely on the 147th Texas Air National Guard with its squadrons of F-16s at Ellington Field to maintain our air defense and make us a hard target. Passing a military appropriations bill today helps us secure our defense, but the fate of the 147th Texas Air National Guard remains uncertain but of critical importance to the people in my district.

Terrorists must not be given an opportunity to bring our great country down, and we must maintain our vigilance. In the BRAC process, some communities were awarded more military infrastructure while others were reduced. Some have turned down those military assets. Florida recently was unwilling to accept naval facilities from Virginia Beach, Virginia. But we in Houston, we hope that our F-16s will be replaced by newer, more technologically advanced jets, and that our squadron will not be relocated. We are

eager to maintain the Texas Air National Guard and look for support on this issue.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the people in my district want our country to be faithful to the principles that you and the leadership of the Republican party have promoted through your years as the Speaker of the House of this auspicious body.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your guidance, your patience and your rock-solid commitment to conservative values on behalf of our great country. And I want to thank you and my colleagues for an appointment to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and to the Workforce and Education Committee. I commit to working very hard and rolling up my sleeves for our great district and our great country.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and our men and women in uniform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH WEBB, JR., DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to honor a great man, particularly because this comes on the eve of his retirement from the United States Army. I have had the privilege of working with this distinguished gentleman in the service of our country for the last 14 years. His name is Major General Joe Webb, Jr. He has distinguished himself by his exceptional service to the United States of America while in positions of increasing responsibility within the Army Medical Department, a career that was launched in June of 1961 when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

From January 1 of 1996 through 31 December of 2006, he served in successive positions of increasing responsibility as the Senior Dental Corps Staff Officer, with the Office of the Surgeon General; Commander of the United States Army Dental Command; the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Sustainment; Commanding General of Tripler Army Medical Center and DOD Lead Agent for TRICARE in the Pacific region; and culminating his illustrious career in the position of United States Army Deputy Surgeon General.

Major General Webb was an officer and leader who approached each of his

assignments with great tenacity. In a career spanning more than 35 years, this soldier, clinician and commander displayed throughout his distinguished military service the highest levels of leadership, professional competence, integrity and moral courage.

Much is spoken and written about Major General Joe Webb. The consensus and the prose consistently agree that this man is the genuine article. Because of my extensive contact with general officers, I know what attributes are necessary for success at the strategic level. You see, I work with generals that do generals' work, I also have worked with generals that do colonels' work. The most refreshing encounters that I have experienced are with colonels that do generals' work. This was the epitome of Joe Webb.

In 1996, the Dental Corps was confronted with significant recruiting and retention compromises that would have had a detrimental impact on the dental health of soldiers, sailors and airmen if it was not remedied.

I served on the Personnel Committee of the House Armed Services and later chaired that committee, with responsibility for the oversight of the military health delivery system.

My brother, John, is now a Colonel and dentist in the Army Medical Corps; at the time, I went to my brother to say, John, what is the problem? We are not able to retain these dentists. There are so many open slots. We are having an exodus. At the time President Clinton was doing a drawdown. I know a lot of the warriors are leaving the service, but we have to stop the leak.

My brother explained the situation to me and the order of the consequences. He proposed a strategy for success, but more importantly, my brother identified the major players, even mapped out a strategy of success on the back of a napkin and said, I must put you with Joe Webb. Joe Webb was a Colonel at the time, and was a key element of ensuring a successful remedy to this looming problem.

The following day Congressman NORWOOD, Joe Webb, my brother, John, and I initiated a dialogue that focused on a strategy for implementation. The impact of the continuation pay package reached all three services and preserved the human capital necessary to deliver world-class dentistry. This is a living legacy that continues to have far-reaching implications. Many call it propay, but those who receive that check know exactly what it means.

I called upon the combined and extensive expertise of Joe Webb and my brother, John Buyer, as critical resources to make the legislation a reality from its introduction, through conference, and into law. Without their dedicated focus on this issue, it is likely that the continuation pay bill would never have met with the success it had. The Air Force, the Navy and Marine Corps programs rested their future upon the shoulders of then Colonel Joe Webb. But this was common through this man's career.

Having been excited by this success, the team of Joe Webb and John Buyer then elevated the health expectations throughout the dental enterprise. They devised the concept of dental wellness to replace the only adequate dental health standard of dental readiness with an optimal dental health standard of wellness. Dental wellness is now the standard in all three services. Legislation to assist the services in achieving higher levels of dental wellness will continue to have a profound and lasting impact upon future forces.

The team of Joe and John then broke down parochial barriers to successfully make the UHQ MEDIVAC training program at Fort Rucker a reality in time to have a successful impact on the Second Gulf War. So now when a dust-off helicopter comes in, and these litters need to be reconfigured, even at night or under trying circumstances, they have been trained under the difficult standards and are prepared to save lives. This project would never have occurred had it not been for their insights and their strategies.

As a Colonel, Joe Webb also served as the Commander of the largest dental command in the Department of Defense. The United States Army Dental Command, called DENTCOM, is comprised of more than 3,800 personnel and 172 clinics worldwide, and had an operating budget of over \$200 million.

A strategic visionary, Major General Webb impacted the implementation of the dental care reengineering initiative, which revolutionized the provisions of the dental care to soldiers to improve the quality of practice for dental care officers.

This gifted leader then was assigned as the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Development and Sustainment. He moved from a colonel at DENTCOM to this new job as a brigadier general. In this capacity, he was responsible for the Army Medical Department's contracting logistics facilities and information management across the Medical Corps.

This proven and tested leader was then selected for promotion to major general and assigned to command the Pacific Region Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing primary, specialty and tertiary care to over 500,000 in the Pacific Command, and over 100,000 VA beneficiaries. He led and managed the day-to-day operations for a 229-bed medical center which is the primary referral medical center in the Pacific. A strategic leader, he played a lead role in the Army's theater security cooperation program, working closely to establish professional medical relationships with other countries. He also reached out to the underserved Pacific Islanders and used all means available to increase access to care for those in need.

In July of 2004, he was selected to serve as the Army Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of Staff of the United States Army Medical Com-

mand. He masterfully guided the activities of an organization which executes an \$8 billion annual operating budget, encompassing over \$6 billion in facilities assets through 12 major subordinate commands, comprised of more than 48,000 military and civilian personnel, eight medical centers, 47 hospitals, 73 separate clinics, 172 dental clinics, 14 biomedical research facilities worldwide. While serving as the Deputy Surgeon General, Major General Webb also placed a renewed emphasis on issues related to the physical and mental well-being of the United States Army Reserve and Army National Guard Members. Under his management and direction, training opportunities for the Reserve AMEDD components were synchronized and improved to meet current and future needs.

Major General Webb's imprint on military medicine extends beyond the Army throughout the Department of Defense and into the national and international communities. His extraordinary achievements are characterized by profound dedication, compassion, intellect and professionalism. Major General Webb's distinguished performance of duty is in keeping with the most proud and cherished traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Army Medical Command, the United States Army and the United States of America.

I have first- and secondhand knowledge of Joe Webb that few have. That is why I have come to the floor. This is a man that has internal anchors. He has a backbone of steel. When it comes to his passion and his commitment, no one can match him. He requests the noblest of things from the noble, and he achieves great results. This is a great man who served our country for over 39 years and I thank him for his service. This is my friend, Joe Webb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2007 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2007 and for the five-year period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 401 and 501 of H. Con. Res.

376, which is currently in effect as a concurrent resolution on the budget in the House under H. Res. 818. This status report is current through November 8, 2006.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2007 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for discretionary action by each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under H. Con. Res. 376 for fiscal year 2007 and fiscal years 2007 through 2011. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2007 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for 2008 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 401 of H. Con. Res. 376. This list is needed to enforce section 401 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

The fifth table provides the current level of the nondefense reserve fund for emergencies established by section 501 of H. Con. Res. 376. The table is required by section 505 of the budget resolution, and is needed to determine whether an increase in the reserve fund, allocations and aggregates will be necessary for any pending legislation that contains emergency-designated discretionary budget authority.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,283,029	(1)